

Important City information available 24 hours by email and cell phone at www.nixle.com

Nature Center Sustainability Takes Flight

As it was much reported, due to the budget crisis, the Chula Vista Nature Center was in jeopardy of closing its doors on July 1. But the center proved to be too important to elected officials, city staff, local businesses, private foundations, civic leaders and most of all to the residents of the community. From a massive fundraising effort, over a half a million dollars were raised to sustain the popular zoo/aquarium in the past six months.

On July 21, executives from Semptra Energy and the International Community Foundation generously donated \$250,000 to the non-profit organization, Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center. This donation marked the beginning of the transition of the Chula Vista Nature Center from a publicly funded institution to an independent, private, regional foundation. Friends of the Nature Center will be sole operators of the facility come January 2010.

"There is an unyielding community spirit throughout San Diego to ensure the Nature Center not only survives – but thrives," said Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center President, Ken Weimer. "It was a collaborative effort from many individuals to create a solid plan to keep the doors open."

This means the 316 acre nature preserve will continue to welcome thousands of children, families, students and visitors for years to come. Not only will guests learn how to protect the precious wetlands and endangered animals through interactive exhibits, guided nature walks, a petting pool and aviaries but smaller joys like family celebrations will continue to carry on.

"I celebrated my 8th birthday at the Nature Center," said Micah Encarnacion. "We went on a scavenger hunt, ate pizza and cake, learned about birds and I even got to pet a sting ray. It was so great!" And what is more important than that?



Back to School Safety

It was a short summer for public school students in Chula Vista! For the first time, schools in the Chula Vista Elementary and Sweetwater High School districts will be on the same calendar, starting and ending the school year together. The "common calendar" schedule is set to start on July 27 and will end on June 4, 2010.

This means local drivers will need to use extra caution on city streets considering there will be more children and teenage drivers sharing the road. Recently, colorful banners have been posted around schools reminding drivers and pedestrians to obey traffic laws.

The signs are part of an ongoing citywide campaign to emphasize traffic safety. Currently, the program is focusing on "pedestrian and bicycle" safety. In an effort to further educate the public about the campaign, the Chula Vista Police Department will provide specialized traffic enforcement operations and implement a parent safety/crossing guard program around school grounds. While officers are stepping up their safety efforts, the police department reminds drivers and pedestrians it's up to them to be responsible, obey the laws and stay alert. After all, getting to and from school safely is what it's all about!

Waste Away - The Right Way

What do half empty bottles of antifreeze, old pool chemicals, assorted batteries, and burned out light bulbs all have in common? These were the types of items collected at the City's Environmental Services free hazardous waste collection event. Staff hoped to inspire residents to do the right thing by disposing of their hazardous waste—the right way. The results were astonishing! Over 850 households participated and 47,520 pounds of hazardous material was collected in five hours.

"We are so pleased many residents took advantage of this

special event which would have otherwise contaminated our landfill," said Lynn France, Environmental Services Program Manager. "Stockpiling these chemicals in garages or homes is dangerous and poses a real threat to young children and pets."

France reminds residents they don't have to wait for the next collection event. The Southbay Regional Household Hazardous Waste drop-off facility is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1800 Maxwell Road.

Happening this month:

Critters & Cocktails

Want something cool to do on Thursday, August 13? The Chula Vista Nature Center presents "Critters & Cocktails" with Sea World and Busch Gardens Animal Ambassador, Julie Scardina. From 6 to 8 p.m. penguins, otters, alligators and more will be mixing with the crowd as guests enjoy appetizers and cocktails generously provided by Frida Mexican Cuisine, Onos Café & Trumer Pilsner Brewery. Tickets are \$50 per person. Each attendee will receive one-year membership to the Chula Vista Nature Center. Space is limited. To reserve your seat next to a Eurasian Asian Owl, call (619) 409-5905 or email tina@cvnc.us

Save the Date to Beautify

Beautify Chula Vista 2009, a popular neighborhood clean-up event that attracts hundreds of dedicated volunteers, is set for Saturday, October 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. Mayor Cheryl Cox and the City Council, in collaboration with I Love A Clean San Diego and Allied Waste Services, will host this year's seventh annual event in Memorial Park and Bowl. Organizers are looking for sponsorship support to help provide t-shirts and lunch for volunteers. Volunteer registration is now open at www.beautifichulavista.org. Roll up your sleeves and dig in to make a difference in your community! For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jennifer Quijano at (619) 409-5812.

Certified Farmers Markets

Summer is now in full swing! Are you taking advantage of all the fresh fruits and vegetables of the season? Purchase produce and flowers directly from the local fields, enjoy a wide variety of delicious specialty and international foods and select from an array of handcrafted items at two locations in the city:

Otay Ranch Town Center

Tuesdays, 4 – 8 p.m., 2018 Birch Road

Third Avenue Village

Thursdays, 3 – 7 p.m., Downtown Chula Vista, Center Street



Did You Know?

... Chula Vista was once the lemon capital of the nation? Don't forget to celebrate the city's heritage at the annual Lemon Festival on Sunday, August 9. The festivities begin at 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Third Avenue between E and G Streets.

...all cats, dogs and rabbits adopted from the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility are microchipped? These tiny chips include the necessary information needed to reunite you with your lost pet. Get one for your pet today for \$15! For an appointment, call (619) 691-5123.



Contacts

[CLICK HERE for City Website](#)

Animal Care Facility

Animal Control	691-5123
Adoptions/Fostering	476-2480
Volunteering	691-5000
Online ACF	CLICK HERE

City Clerk

Main Line	691-5041
Passport Appointment	409-1949
Online Appointment	CLICK HERE

City Manager/Administration

Main Line	691-5031
Communications/ Media Relations	691-5296

Code Enforcement

691-5280

Conservation

409-3893

Developmental Services

Engineering	691-5021
Building	691-5272
Planning	691-5101
Small Business Services	409-5888
Small Business Programs	CLICK HERE

Finance

Main Line	691-5250
Purchasing	691-5141
Business Lic. Online	CLICK HERE

Fire

Emergency	911
Main Line	691-5055
Prevention Division	691-5029
Prevention Online	CLICK HERE

Human Resources

Main Line	691-5096
Job Hotline	691-5095
Volunteering	409-5924

Library

Civic Center Branch	691-5069
South Branch	585-5755
EastLake Branch	397-3980
Volunteering	691-5000
Online Branch	CLICK HERE

Mayor & City Council

691-5044

Nature Center

[Nature Center Online](#)

Police

Emergency	911
Report Crime/Dispatch	691-5151
Report Crime Online	CLICK HERE

Public Works

CLEAN Business Program	691-5122
CLEAN Program Online	CLICK HERE
Graffiti Hotline	691-5198
Graffiti Program Online	CLICK HERE
Graffiti IN PROGRESS	911
Household Hazard. Waste	691-5122
Park Reservations	397-6197
Reservations Online	CLICK HERE
Storm Water Hotline	397-6000
Recycling/Solid Waste	691-5122
Service Requests	397-6000
Service Requests Online	CLICK HERE

Recreation

Administration	409-5979
Recreation Online	CLICK HERE
CV Woman's Club	691-5083
Heritage Center	421-7032
Loma Verde Center	691-5082
Loma Verde Pool	691-5081
Monteville Center	691-5269
Norman Park Center	691-5086
Otay Center	476-5325
Parkway Center	691-5083
Parkway Pool	691-5088
Parkway Gym	691-5084
Salt Creek Center	585-5739
Veterans Center	691-5260

Redevelopment & Housing

Main Line	691-5047
Redev. & Housing Online	CLICK HERE